Historic Preservation Board
Meeting Minutes
June 3, 2026 1:00 PM

Attendance: **Board Members**: Christy DeLair, Devin Hunter, Joi Cuartero-Austin, Jessica Ballard-Lawrence, Jacob Friefeld, Sarah Watson, and Jeff Nevins; **Illinois State Museum Staff:** Jenn Edginton: **Illinois Department of Natural Resources Staff**: Joshua Daniels.

1. **Welcome**
    a. Jacob Friefeld started the Meeting at 1:05 PM.
2. **Roll Call**
    a. Jeff Nevins called the roll. Christy DeLair, Devin Hunter, Joi Cuartero-Austin, Jessica Ballard-Lawrence, Jacob Friefeld, Sarah Watson, and Jeff Nevins were present in addition to Josh Daniels. Quorum was reached with 6 voting members present.
3. **Old Business:**
    a. **Approval of Previous Minutes:**
        i. Devin Hunter made a motion to approve the previous meeting minutes
        ii. Sarah Watson seconded the motion
        iii. 5 Members agreed, 1 Member Abstained
        iv. Jacob Friefeld Approved of the Minutes from the previous meeting.
4. **New Business:**
    a. **Discussion about appointing Vice Chair**
        i. Jacob Friefeld moved this discussion until next meeting when nominated Board Member is present to speak on her behalf.
    b. **Discussion on Draft Criteria for State to Add New Historic Sites**
        i. Jacob Friefeld presents the draft criteria for the state to add new historic sites for discussion before circulating to IDNR, ISM, and Historic Sites Site Superintendents for feedback on this document.
        ii. Devin Hunter suggested to alter the 4^{th} bullet point under the Story and Significance section to say, "Is it on the National Register of Historic Places or Deemed Eligible?"
        iii. Sarah Watson asked if sites being offered to the state are a common or uncommon event. Jeff Nevins answered that a few people have reached out since he has been at IDNR, but there have not been any real significant inquiries.
        iv. Christy DeLair asked if the draft will become a rubric used to evaluate potential new historic sites.
        v. Jeff Nevins explained that it could be, but that other departments of IDNR will have to be involved in the creation and approval of the rubric.
        vi. Joi Cuartero-Austin asks if the rubric would be used for all applicants or specific ones only, Jacob Friefeld answered that this would me more of internal for used to evaluate whether the proposed property would be a good addition to the Historic Sites Portfolio.

vii. Sarah Watson asks for clarification as to whether the Board would be going out and looking for sites to add or waiting for them to come to the board. Jeff Nevis answered that we would most likely not be looking for sites to add but can make suggestions to the board to investigate a potential site.
viii. Devin Hunter suggested that we don't let minor physical integrity problems stop a potential site from moving forward or a current site be let go.
ix. Sarah Watson stated that the maintenance of the site could be a big factor given the current deferred maintenance that currently exists with historic sites.
x. Devin Hunter stated that co-management of proposed site should not be a big determining factor in the evaluation of the proposed site.
xi. Jeff Nevins stated that partnerships and co-management exist with many of the current sites and that this should be looked at due to friends' groups, fall outs that may happen, and MOUs.
xii. Jeff Nevins will be sharing the draft with IDNR staff for more input as well as the ISM Director.

c. **Discussion of the process for the Board review of Current Historic Sites**
   i. Jacob Friefeld suggests having the board members travel to the current historic site to see them in person and their day-to-day operations.
   ii. Jacob Friefeld asks about travel reimbursement for the board members and what the process would be like.
   iii. Jeff Nevins states that the board will be reimbursed for travel.
d. **Schedule remaining Meeting for Calendar Year 2026**
   i. Jeff Nevins suggested that the next meeting be scheduled after the Illinois State Fair.
   ii. Next Meeting is scheduled on Wednesday August 26th at 10 AM.

5. **Public Comment:**
   a. There were no public comments made.
6. **Adjournment**
   a. Sarah Watson made a motion that we adjourn the meeting.
   b. Joi Cuartero-Austin seconded the motion.
   c. All members of the board were and in favor of Adjournment.
   d. Jacob Friefeld adjourned the meeting at 1:57 PM.